

Sexual Abuse includes fondling a child's genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism, and commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials. Many experts believe that sexual abuse is the most under-reported form of child maltreatment because of the secrecy or "conspiracy of silence" that so often characterizes these cases.

Medical Neglect is the failure of a caregiver to provide appropriate health care for the child, resulting in harm to the child's health, even though the caretaker was financially able or offered the financial or other means to do so. This may include prenatal exposure to drugs.

For more information contact:

Kickapoo Social
Services
785-486-2662 ext 237

To report child abuse and/or neglect,
call:

On the Kickapoo
Reservation
Kickapoo Social Services
785-486-2662 ext 237

Off the Kickapoo
Reservation
Protection Report Center
1-800-922-5330

Child Abuse and Neglect in Indian Country

Definitions, Indicators and
Reporting

Kickapoo Social Services
822 K-20 HWY Suite B
Horton, KS 66439

Child Physical Abuse is characterized by the infliction of physical injury as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, shaking or otherwise harming a child. The parent or caretaker may not have intended to hurt the child; rather, the injury may have resulted from over-discipline or physical punishment.

Child Neglect is characterized by failure to provide for the child's basic needs. Neglect can be physical, educational, or emotional. *Physical Neglect* includes refusal of, or delay in, seeking health care; abandonment; expulsion from the home or refusal to allow a runaway to return home; and inadequate supervision. *Educational Neglect* includes the allowance of chronic truancy, failure to enroll a child of mandatory school age in school, and failure to attend to a special educational need.

Emotional Neglect includes such actions as marked attention to the child's needs for affection; refusal of or failure to provide needed psychological care; spouse abuse in the child's presence; and permission of drug or alcohol use by the child. The assessment of child neglect requires consideration of cultural values and standards of care as well as recognition that the failure to provide the necessities of life may be related to poverty.

Emotional Abuse (*psychological/verbal abuse/mental injury*) includes acts or omissions by the parents or other caregivers that have caused, or could cause, serious behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental disorders. In some cases of emotional abuse, the acts of parents or other caregivers alone, without any harm evident in the child's behavior or condition, are sufficient to warrant child protective services (CPS) intervention. For example, the parents/caregivers may use extreme or bizarre forms of punishment, such as confinement of a child in a dark closet. Less severe acts, such as habitual scape goating, belittling, or rejecting treatment, are often difficult to prove and, therefore, CPS may not be able to intervene without evidence of harm to the child.

Reporting Suspicions of Child Abuse and Neglect

Any individual who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect must make a report.

Who to report to: If you suspect a child has been abused or is being neglected call the Indian Child Welfare Program, Child Protective Services, Law Enforcement, BIA Law Enforcement or the BIA/Tribal Social Services.